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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/994,462	11/26/2001	Alexander Winker	81780	9502

7590 03/18/2004

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EXAMINER

SAETHER, FLEMMING

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3679

DATE MAILED: 03/18/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/994,462

Applicant(s)

WINKER, ALEXANDER

Examiner

Flemming Saether

Art Unit

3679

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 January 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 14-16 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 26 November 2001 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- 1) ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - 2) ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - 3) ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

Art Unit: 3679

Election/Restriction

Applicant's election of group I, claims 1-13 with traverse is acknowledged. Applicant argues the search of and examination of all the claims would not pose a serious burden on the examiner. In response, the disagrees because the method claims would not only require additional search as evidenced by the different classification they would require further consideration regarding the relevance of the prior art. Accordingly, claims 14-16 have been withdrawn.

Specification

The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: the title is non-descriptive, the body lacks the various headings, and the specification may not refer to the claims. In general it is evident that the written disclosure is a translation from a foreign language and includes includes many informalities inherent therewith.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 1-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. In claim 1, lines 4-5, it is not unclear how there would be splines if the grooves that form the splines extend a complete circle.

Art Unit: 3679

Furthermore, characterizing the members 10a-10c and 20a-20c as splines and spline profiles does not appear to be accurate since the invention is intended there to be relative movement between the "splines". In claims 4, 9, 10 and 12, the range within a range in a single claim is indefinite. Regarding claims 6 and 7, there is no antecedent for the clamping. In claims 5, 7 and 8, it is unclear how a surface that is shown a curved can have a linear gradient and then regarding claim 8, it is unclear how the linear gradient can be generated by a circular arc. The claims were examined as best understood.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-3, 6-8 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Stencel (US 4,260,005). As best seen in Figs. 4 and 6, Stencel discloses a securing nut comprising a straining ring (34) having three grooves (38) in the form of "splines" each extending 120 degrees to total an entire 360 degrees and, a threaded (at 18) nut body (10) having a neck (52) having three cams (28) in the form of curved "spline profiles" which extend less than 360 degrees which are clamped to form a "linear gradient".

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 4, 5, 6, 10, 11 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stencil as applied to claims 1 and 2 above, and further in view of Williamson (US 4,408,936). Stencil presumably does not disclose the "linear gradient" of the splines. As seen in Figs. 8 and 9, Williamson discloses splines (63) having a "linear gradient". At the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art to form the splines of Stencil as having a linear gradient as disclosed in Williamson to improve the ability to clamp the spline profiles. The linear gradient forms a more gradual incline to reduce the effort to clamp the spline profiles. The claimed ranges/preferred dimensions would have been recognized depending upon the particular use of the invention. It is well known to vary the size of fasteners depending upon the particular application.

Conclusion

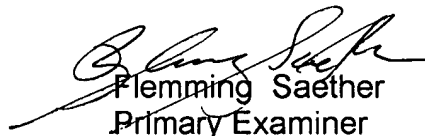
The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Art Unit: 3679

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Flemming Saether whose telephone number is 703-308-0182. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lynne Browne can be reached on 703-308-1159. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Flemming Saether
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3679